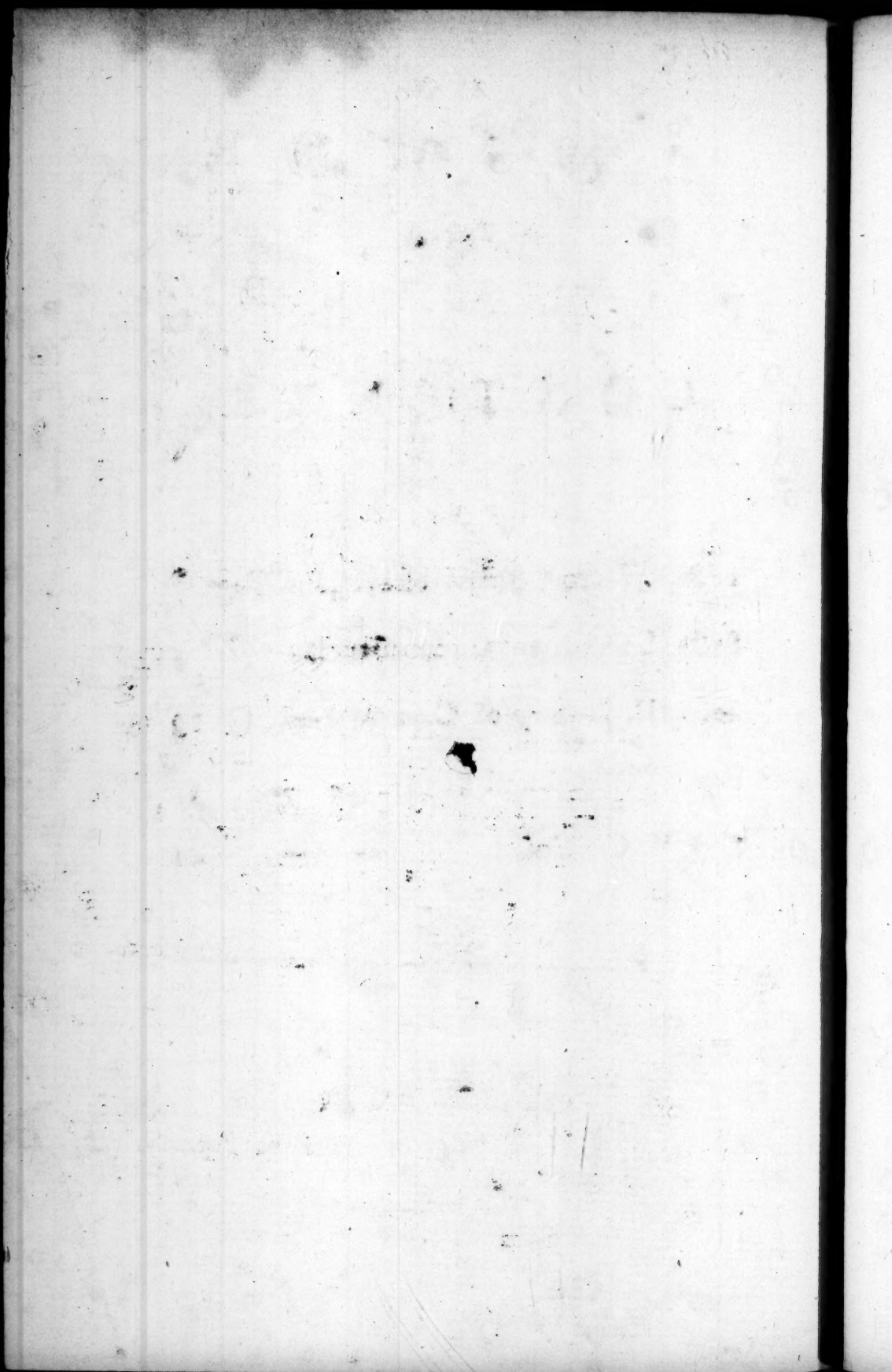


e A N
A N S W E R
TO A
P A M P H L E T,
WRITTEN BY
Doct^r L E T T S O M,
ENTITLED
O B S E R V A T I O N S
PREPARATORY TO THE USE OF
Dr. M A Y E R S B A C H ' s
M E D I C I N E S.

L O N D O N :

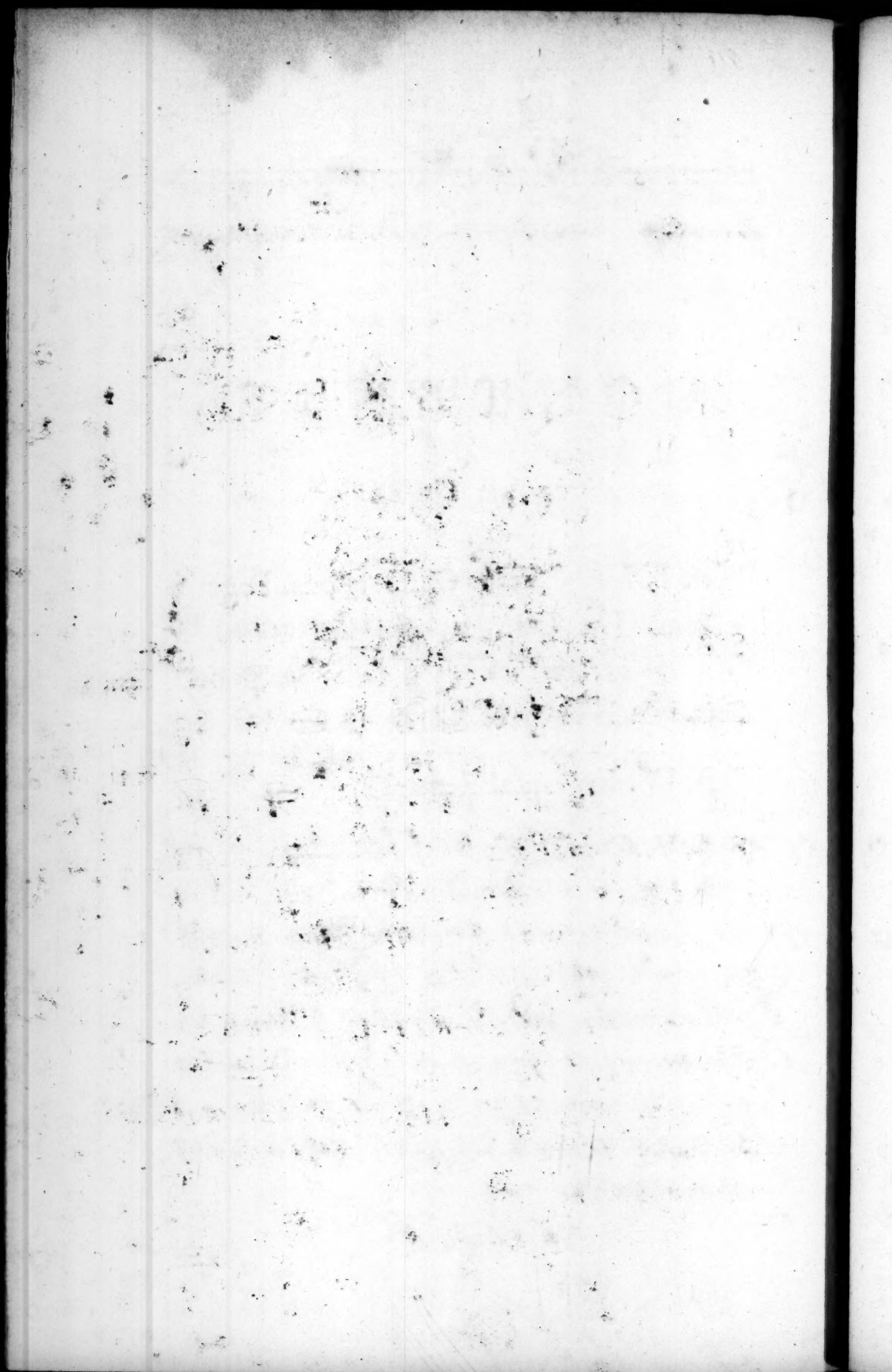
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M.DCC.LXXVI.



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SECTION I.

INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS.

HAD Dr. Lettsom been that friend of reason, and common sense he professes, or had he possessed those abilities the intention of his subject required, he would not have admitted into his *Observations preparatory to the use of Dr. Mayersback's medicines*, anonymous letters from news-paper intelligence; nor have countenanced the invented tales of a discarded servant, which were, most likely, first dictated by the malicious spirit of revenge, within the walls of that *prison* from whence he was so lately released by the ill-repaid lenity of his master.

The improbable inventions of so exceptionable an evidence will contribute very little towards detecting, as he terms it, the *ignorance* of the impostor.

Had he called it cunning, it had been we think, more applicable to the purpose; as admitting the utmost strength of every false, and futile argument his observations have started, he must allow the Doctor to have a great share of that quality that could be able to dupe the greatest part of one of the first cities in the world.

To follow Dr. Lettsom through his collection of incredible assertions, and misrepresented cases, mostly attested by initials, or grounded on hearsay, were to render our work as disinteresting and heavy, as even the compilation which we have undertaken to answer; and which nothing but the necessity of being acquainted with the contents could have induced us to wade through.

We

We shall only, therefore, trouble our readers with a *few* cases, selected from an immense number of others, written or dictated by the patients themselves, which when thoroughly weighed, and their authenticity considered, must undoubtedly over-balance any objections already stated by Dr. Lettsom, against his envied and superior rival in physical fame.

That the detector, as Dr. Lettsom seems desirous of being styled, has no reason to exult on the acquisition of a discharged domestic to his party, pretty evidently appears; as every impartial person must thereby be convinced, that his publication was the result of a determined persecution of one whom he looked upon as an enemy to him and to the faculty; for which every engine must be employed, every dependent dispatched, right or wrong, to decry merit, and to hunt down an intruder upon the profits of his calling, which he would have every one

believe to be the inherent right of the college of physicians; from whom alone a dispensation can legally be granted for carrying on the medical trade, and without which, he would have us suppose, it is impossible for any one to have the least knowledge in the profession,

SECTION

SECTION II.

OCCURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHOEVER is engaged in medicine, with that regard for the welfare of his profession, which a physician and a friend to *himself* ought to feel, must often lament over the strength of the human constitution, and the health and vigour of the habits to which it is liable; some peculiarly assisting the functions of the body, some the powers of the mind, and some too often both; for existing by diseases, he will find it requisite to exert the utmost efforts of skill, to promote the causes of ailments, to augment their symptoms, and invent the most probable means of prolonging them; he will see these symptoms daily varying, and as often requiring a variation of remedies; that

that those which were first indicated must be omitted, and others substituted, in order to reconduct his patient, as soon as the operation of his drugs will permit, into the bed of pain and sickness.

Under the apprehension of not being able to write in a more fluent style than that of Dr. Lettsom, we chose to begin this section in his own language. Its meaning may perhaps suit our subject as well as it did his. For diseases are the physicians' stock in trade, and the more they have to work upon, the more profit their business brings them in. It must therefore be their interest to extol their own praise, and to decry the deservings of others. If a new-comer, by dint of superior knowledge, or of accident, happens to jump into notice, every medical mouth is open, every pen is dipped in poison to pronounce and write him an interloping quack.

Merit

Merit is the constant butt of malice ;
and Envy with her thousand hissing
snakes, is ever ready to diffuse around it
the venom of slander and detraction.

"Tis to combat this hydra we now
take the field, unknown to the gentleman
whose cause we espouse, unsolicited, un-
rewarded.

Dr. Lettsom affirms, that " the state
" of the urine, liable as it is to so ma-
" ny variations in health, cannot afford
" a just indication of the state of the
" body, when under disease, without a
" previous knowledge, not only of the
" human body in health, but likewise of
" the various changes produced upon it
" from different causes, in its sound as well
" as its diseased state."

Without following the Doctor, and his
secreted fluids, through the urinary passages,
or examining the *action of those vessels*
upon

upon which the excretions depend; we are on the other hand, bold enough to affirm the direct contrary. Here is *ipse dixit* for *ipse dixit*. How then is it to be decided?

The Doctor backs his assertion by the opinions of others; we ours by positive and direct proof; which shall be the purport of our next section.

Let not Dr. Lettsom be piqued because another has discovered the secret which he has sought after in vain. Let him rather say, I own it is beyond my comprehension, how any judgment can be formed of the situation of the body from urinary appearances. Dr. Mayerbach can do it, and therefore he has the superior knowledge. Perhaps Dr. Lettsom does not recollect that by making the difficulty of the attainment so great, he only heightens Dr. Mayerbach's knowledge; for when every one knows a thing, the knowledge is of less value.

Whe.

Whether Dr. Mayersbach is, or is not; a regular-bred physician, or whether his degree cost him *three shillings and six-pence*, or as many hundred pounds, is entirely immaterial in the present case. When we go into a mercer's shop, and see a beautiful and curious silk, we never ask whether the ingenious artist has served his time, and taken out his freedom regularly; nor, when we are told that the worker of it is under a prosecution for carrying on his business without being legally authorized so to do, does it lessen the value of the silk. We admire the workmanship, without considering the means by which the artificer acquired his skill. Aye, but then (it will be urged) the work of the hands may be learned by an insight of the mode of carrying on the business; while the scientific knowledge requires a different mode of acquirement. True; and therefore it is, that all rules for dispensing that valuable attribute to an individual, by any set or community of men, is ridiculous and absurd.

To parcel out the gift of understanding were to arrogate the power of the Deity.

Had all the bards on earth met in convention, upon Pope and Curl, to determine their degrees of merit in the poetic line, and had decreed a diploma to the latter to write and rhyme for the edification of man, and through pique or sinister motives should have denied it to the former, the writings of Pope would have been no less valuable, nor the verses of Curl in higher estimation.

A person in the north of England took upon him the business of bone-setting, and became noted for his knowledge and success in that branch of surgery. A lady of quality in London happened to dislocate her hip, which baffled the skill of Surgeon's-hall, and made her despair of ever having the joint replaced: but hearing of the bone-setter above-mentioned, he was sent for to town, where he had the good
for-

fortune to set the lady's hip, and restore her to her perfect strength. This brought the whole tribe of regular-bred surgeons upon him; they exploded him as an ignorant pretender, and allowed him no merit but accident in the cure. In order to convince the world of their assertion, they hired a chairman, who was to pretend to have put out the joint of his arm, whom they instructed on the occasion, and sent to tell his case to the bone-setter; on looking at the man's arm, he immediately saw into the deceit, and giving it a twist dislocated it in a dangerous manner, and sent him back to those that had hired him to have it set. Their skill, however, was unable to effect it, and he came back to the country surgeon, confessed the whole matter, begged pardon, and was immediately set to rights.

Will Dr. Lettsom pretend that this man, because he had never been instructed in anatomy, had no skill in bone-setting?

Let him rather consider, that it may bear some analogy to his own case. Like the hirers of the poor chairman, who, instead of detecting the ignorance of the bone-setter, exposed their own baseness; so he, in attempting to expose, as he terms it, *the ignorance of a quack*, may sink in his own trap, with the reflection of having been stimulated by envy, or self-interested motives, while the object of his malice is more firmly established in his profession, and more followed by the town,

SECTION III.

HISTORY OF CASES.

THERE is no maxim in Dr. Lettsom's whole publication more justly stated, than that wherein he asserts, that *strong indeed must be that bias, which leads a man to apply to a stranger, and repose in his hands the dearest of blessings.* No one had a greater objection, nay, a more forcible antipathy to empyrics than the writer of these remarks, and strong must be the motives that could remove the impresson.

The testimony of a very intimate and worthy friend, Mr. Willan, of Marylebone, induced him to consult Dr. Mayersbach, in behalf of a relation, and the effect of that consultation was an entire belief of
his

his knowledge of diseases, by the inspection of the urinal.

On his looking at the water, without hesitation, without any previous questions having been asked, or any kind of artifice made use of, that could give him the most distant hint of the disorder, or situation of the patient, he described not only the disease, but the cause which had produced it. That the water was a lady's, that she was elderly, had a large swelling in her body, of the dropical kind, but not in a situation to be tapped; that her chief pain was in her side, with various other symptoms, as exact, as if he had attended her through every stage of her complaint; that the case was very desperate, and that he could not say whether he could be of any service to her or not, till he had tried the effect of some medicines for a few days. He made the experiment, found it was to no purpose, and declined taking any more fees.

His opinion and conduct on the above occasion are particularly dwelt upon, for two reasons; in the first place, to prove his knowledge of the disorder by urine, and in the next place, to acquit him of any mercenary views; for if he had had the least intention of that kind, he had nothing more to have done than to have declared the disease curable, and continued taking his fees for six weeks longer.

These, or any other particulars advanced in this publication, will be testified, and more fully explained, if required, to any one who chuses to take the trouble of calling at Mr. Willan's, whose case, as it is singular, stands first in the list of cures, which are here inserted in their own words.

C A S E I.

I HAD been afflicted with pains, particularly on taking the least cold, for fifteen or twenty years, and have had all the advice I could get from most of the able physicians in and about London.

These pains used to attack me in my bowels, attended with reachings to a violent degree. Wherever I was, I used to send to the first apothecary of estimation I could get, and they always treated my disorder as an inflammation in the bowels. It grew worse and worse. I was sent to Bath for it, to Harrowgate, the salt-water, and to all the watering places we could think of, and underwent all the experiments of the faculty. I still grew worse, till, in short, I lost the use of my limbs; and for the last seven or eight weeks

weeks before I saw Dr. Mayersbach, I
 can safely say, I never had one hour's
 sleep at one time: my legs swelled to a
 great degree; I lay in dreadful misery;
 part of my family were constantly with
 me, and those that were in bed could have
 no rest, for I lay in such agonies, that I
 disturbed the whole house with my cries.
 A friend persuaded me to consult Dr.
 Mayersbach; with reluctance I complied.
 I sent my coachman for him. When he
 came, I was lying on a settee, for I could
 not stand, nor sit in a chair any time to-
 gether. There was nobody in the room
 but my wife and Mrs. Wolter of Barnet,
 who was come to see me: to whom I refer
 the public, if they think proper to have this
 account authenticated by her. When the
 Doctor came into the room, he saw me in
 that situation; with my crutches lying
 by me, as I could not move without
 them. He asked me no questions, to the
 best of my knowledge. My water stood
 there in a tumbler glass: he took it to the

D

win-

dow, and looked at it a little while; turned round to me and said, Sir, I can cure you. He told me, I had the gravel to a violent degree, and till that was brought away, I should never be able to stand upright; that the gravel was my chief complaint, but I had the scurvy very bad with it. I informed him, that my doctors said my complaint was the rheumatic gout. He said, he would cure me of my gravel, and the gout would cure itself; that he would make me walk without my crutches in three weeks, and in six weeks he would make me well: which he did; for I was in six weeks time as well as ever I was in my life; and for these last thirteen months I have not known what it was to feel any pain, and am now, thank God, as hearty as ever I was in my life. I have lived in London above forty years, and, perhaps, twenty of the time as freely as any man in it; and am now turned of sixty-four, and am as well and free from pain as I was when I was ten years old. When Dr. Mayerbach

first saw me, I had two issues in my legs; he said they were *disagreeable things*, and made me dry them up, which I was afraid of, as I was always told it would endanger my life. They have been dried up now almost a year, and I have found no bad effects from it, nor have I taken any physic these twelve months,

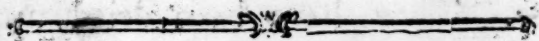
JOHN WILLAN.

Mary-le-bone,

Oct. 1, 1776.

P. S. There is one remarkable circumstance attending my case, which I cannot help relating. When I was got well, and had occasion to go into the country, the Doctor told me that I should, at some period or other, have a good deal of blood come from me with my water; but that I must not be alarmed at it, as it would be attended with no bad consequence. Some little time after, on getting out of bed one morning, I discharged a large quantity of blood, as he had foretold; it came away
without

without any pain, and I have since had no complaint upon me of any kind.



C A S E II.

IN September, 1775, I was seized with a cold, attended with a fever, a violent cough and hoarseness; for the removal of which, an eminent physician was applied to, who prescribed for me, but did me no service. My disorder still increased, and my constitution declined apace. Finding medicines ineffectual, I had recourse to the country air, which had no good effect. I at length grew so weak, that my dissolution was supposed to be near; I therefore determined to return, and end my life at home, as I thought at farthest I could but exist a few days. My complaint had got
to

to such a height, and my constitution was so impaired, that the most delicate thing I took returned in a few minutes. I was so violently afflicted with cold sweats, that I changed my shirts three times a night, which were as wet when I pulled them off, as if they had been soaked in water. During the time I had these sweats, I was shivering with cold, as if in an ague fit.

In this situation I was recommended by several friends, and particularly by my disconsolate wife, at whose request I consented, to try Dr. Mayerbach. I went to him in a coach. On seeing my water, he immediately pronounced my complaint quite different from what I had been informed. And farther, says he, I can cure you. If you follow my prescriptions you will find yourself better in a week. The weakness of my constitution would not let the first medicine continue on my stomach. I then took a smaller quantity, which had the desired effect: on its continuing on my stomach

mach I immediately found relief. I strictly adhered to his directions, and in a week, agreeable to the doctor's promise, I was able to walk from my house to the Doctor's and back, and likewise three or four miles into the country ; and by the continuance of the medicines for about six weeks, was restored to perfect health, which, I thank God, I have enjoyed ever since, and still continue so to do. Whoever pleases to call on me, may be satisfied of the truth ; and if Dr. Lettsom, or any other person, pleases to have my oath on the occasion, by paying the expence attending it, they may have it whenever they think fit.

JOHN POWELL.

Cloth-Fair, No. 6.

CASE

C A S E III.

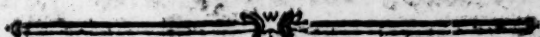
ON the 12th of October, 1775, our daughter, Anne Williams, six years old, was inoculated, and about Christmas appeared thin, and we were apprehensive she would go into a decline; she grew worse, and we thought it necessary to consult one of the first physicians in London. He prescribed for her, but she grew worse, and was at last confined to her bed. He said he could do no more for her. She lay like an insensible being; her belly swelled prodigiously, her lips were black, and appeared in a state of putrefication, and we expected her to die every moment; and for three quarters of an hour we thought her really dead. By Mr. Ping's advice, of Chelsea, we applied to Dr. Mayersbach. We sent her water by our sister; she returned and told

told us that the Doctor had described her disorder in every particular, and from that circumstance we determined she should take his medicines. She took the first of them on Thursday the eighteenth of April last, and on the Sunday we saw a visible alteration for the better. We sent off to the Doctor, and he came on the Monday morning at five o'clock, to Parson's Green, where we then were. He expressed surprize at seeing her throat so bad, and said, his medicines were too sharp, and he would send her some that were milder, and assured us he would cure her. He told us that before the next Sunday she would be able to eat, and in six weeks she would be well; and that we should see her a fine girl in a little time. This all came true. She recovered within the time mentioned, and has continued perfectly well ever since. Numbers of people who saw her when she was ill, have come, through curiosity, to be assured if she was really recovered,

recovered, not knowing how to credit the report.

ROBERT WILLIAMS.
JANE WILLIAMS.

Row-Street,
Oct. 3.



C A S E IV.

To Dr. MAYERSBACH.

S I R,

YESTERDAY I came to town, having been absent above three weeks. I was informed that your character as a person of skill as a physician, had been greatly traduced in the papers, and also in a pamphlet, which I have not seen. I am bound by every tie of conscience and gratitude to

E declare,

declare, that I owe more to your skill in your profession, than to all the faculty besides ; having had *four* of the first physicians in town, and the first in Bath ; and the most eminent apothecary here, and the first there. And no one could ever give me an account what my complaint was, nor could prescribe any thing that gave me the least relief, till I met with you. It was generally called a flying gout. I was afflicted with it more than ten years. When being given over, and reduced to almost a skeleton by constant pain, I was advised to bring my water to you, some time in July, 1775.

When I enquired at the shop for Dr. Mayerbach, I was desired to go up stairs ; I met a person coming down, and asked if the Doctor was above. You told me you was the person, and went with me into the dining-room. My wife was with me. I gave you the vial with my water ; you looked at it, and told me I
was

was in such a state as you had never met with but in one person in your life, and that was in Germany, I asked you what my complaint was. You then began to recite my various complaints, which were many and violent, without my wife or self saying one word. You told us I had violent pains in my head, my stomach loaded with phlegm, and drawn up with the cramp; that I was violently troubled with wind, and that the pain I felt threw me into fainting fits; that from my hips downwards I was numbed, and that the whole proceeded from a violent sharp humour in my bowels. Which was every word literally true; for I never was free from prodigious head-achs, or from being loaded so at my stomach with phlegm, that I was almost strangled, with frequent vomitings, which were at times very violent.

My stomach was so drawn up with the cramp, that it was as stiff as if I
was

was dead. I could not bend sometimes for half an hour, all the time screaming with torture. I have had a physician and an apothecary holding me up in this manner for half an hour together, pouring into my stomach hot medicines, and hot brandy and water, with usquebaugh and brandy; when quite spent, I had fits of crying and fainting, and was so reduced, that for two or three days I could not speak to any body, but kept my bed or lay on a couch. I had such numbness in my thighs and legs, for years, that they were obliged to be rubbed with hot flannels for circulation. I had Zelzer water bottles, with hot water put to my feet at night to keep heat in them.

You sent me pills, powders, and two sorts of drops. I found the first two pills touch the cause. I thank God after taking your medicines about two months, I got quite well of my complaints, which is known to hundreds of people; having a
very

very large acquaintance. And whoever wants further information, may call on me, at John's coffee-house, Cornhill, where I will satisfy them.

I am, Sir,

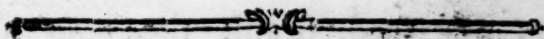
Your most humble servant,

THOMAS ROBERTS.

Charter-house Square,

Oct. 4, 1776.

N. B. I have been three times sent to Bath in a year. Please to make what use you please of this account.



C A S E V.

IN August 1773, my wife was taken with very excruciating and dreadful pains,
in

in the stomach, back, and sides, which held her some hours, and returned again in about a month. I sent for a physician, who ordered her medicines; the pains still continued to return more frequent. Since which she has had several of the most eminent of the faculty, with no better success; the disorder coming on more frequent and violent, that she has mostly been obliged to be held in bed by two people, the pains being so very dreadful that few could bear to be in the room without shedding tears, on seeing her in those violent agonies. The physicians ordered her to Bath, where she went in June 1774, and staid above three months, attended by the first of the faculty, by whose orders she bathed, drank the waters, and took many medicines, but to no effect: the disorder growing worse upon her, having the pains four or five times in a week, from four to fifteen hours at a time, which reduced her so much, that her flesh was in a manner gone, and she
was

was brought extremely low; her digestion so bad, that no food was light enough for her stomach; at last the physicians told her, that it was not in the power of medicine to give her any relief. It was thought by the physicians and other people, she could not possibly have survived the pains she had on the 6th of April 1775. Meeting a friend who mentioned to me the many and great cures performed by Dr. Mayersbach, I requested my wife to have him; she seemed tired and worn out with the great quantities of drugs she had taken; and being told, as I mentioned above, that it was not in the power of medicine to give her relief, she did not seem inclined to try any more; however, she was prevailed upon to send for Dr. Mayersbach who came the next day, being the 7th of April, 1775. I attended at Islington to receive him. When he entered the room he looked at my wife, who lay in bed, almost worn out with pain and medicine, and after examining

examining the urine, immediately said, she would get very well, and he was certain he should bring her to good health; she took his medicines, and, with the blessing of God, they agreed with her. The second day of his attendance he told her the pains would not return. The medicines operated in a gentle manner, and in every respect as the Doctor said they would. In the course of about a month she was in good health, and able to walk two or three miles, to the great astonishment of every one that knew her, the pains not in the least returning. She has been well ever since, and is now in perfect health. Any one doubting the truth of the above may be satisfied by applying at my house.

EDWARD MILSON.

Cross-street, Islington,

Sept. 27, 1776.

CASE

C A S E VI.

To Dr. MAYERSBACH.

S I R,

I am in duty bound to pray for you, and I say God blefs you, for faving my wife. Before I applied to you I had three phyficians to attend her. They told me there was no more to be done for her, but not one of them could find out her complaint.

Her first phyfician was Dr. Pitcairne, the fecond Dr. Hook, and the third Dr. Fothergil. She followed their prefcriptions, and they all three, I verily believe, did their beft for her. When I first came to you with the water, you told me what her diforder was, and that you could fhortly be of fervice to her. In twenty-four hours after fhe had taken your medicines fhe found

F

herself

herself a little better. In three days she asked me for a mutton chop; which surprised me so much, that I asked her if she was in earnest? She said, she was; therefore she had the mutton chop. By continuing your prescriptions, she recovered very fast. In a fortnight she was able to come down stairs, and in a very short time after became perfectly well, and has been so ever since.

EDWARD FOX.

High-street, Borough,

Oct. 3, 1776.

N. B. It is near twelve months since the doctor first attended her.

The foregoing cases are a few of the long list of others, equally extraordinary and equally interesting, offered for our insertion. We could easily have swelled them to the extent of Dr. Lettsom's catalogue of twenty-eight, or twenty-eight times

times twenty-eight, if we may judge from the numbers we refused, though of equal authenticity with the former, because we would not wish to tire the reader with so many superfluous instances of the Doctor's undoubted knowledge in urinary judgment and the restoration of health.

It may be objected, that it is very extraordinary a person unknown to Dr. Mayersbach should take so much pains in collecting of cases, and stepping forward in a transaction in which he is no way interested.

The answer is, that it was from a thorough conviction of Dr. Mayersbach's being what he really professes, a doctor of the first magnitude. That conviction, as was mentioned before, arose from ocular and auricular assurance of his skill. We beheld the wanton attack upon one, whom we look upon as a great public blessing, with an honest indignation. We communicated our sentiments to Mr. Willan, and

'tis to his interposition that Dr. Lettson and the public are troubled with this trifle in Dr. Mayerbach's favour. - Were it ten times more interesting and forcible than it is, it would, we are conscious, be far short of the Doctor's desert.

SECTION IV.

INCIDENTAL REMARKS.

WE are indebted to Dr. Lettsom for his calculation of the strength of nature against all the skill and power of medicine; which proves to a demonstration, that the *efforts of nature* are as eighty to twenty, which is four to one stronger than those of *physic*. Who then in their senses, particularly where life is concerned, would give up the chance of *four to one*, and desert the stronger means of arriving at health under the simple guidance of *Dame Nature*, to groan under the weaker experiments of the *sons of Galen*? He says, that “ upon an
 “ average, out of every hundred patients,
 “ there is reason to suppose, eighty would be
 “ restored to health by the *efforts of nature*,
 “ without the use of medicine; out of
 “ the twenty remaining patients, suppose
 “ the empiric cures ten, and kills as many,
 “ there will ninety remain to proclaim
 “ the character of the doctor.”

Now, Dr. Lettsom, you are asked one question. Answer it, upon your honour.

How many of the last hundred patients you had under your care had you the happiness to save ?

Did one of the twenty which you allow to the trial of medicine, which is the smallest number we can state, die under your hands ?

If you answer in the affirmative, we reply, that *one* is more in proportion to the degrees of your patients than Dr. Mayersbach's ten. For your's (it must be taken for granted) consist of the common run of diseases, while his are chiefly made up of desperate cases, mostly given over after they have been perhaps precipitated to the jaws of death by the misapplied medicines of others.

The generality of Dr. Mayersbach's patients come with the dart of death at their breasts. If he can ward the blow there is confessedly a life saved. If the stroke takes

takes effect there is only a life gone, which had for some time been doomed to that fate by perhaps the whole body of physicians.

We are far from wishing to throw the least flight on the *materia medica* ; nor does our subject require it. We cannot however help observing, that every rule put upon professional genius is a bar to its progress.

How glorious are the flights of Shakespeare, when soaring beyond the given bounds of dramatic fable, to the ears of an admiring, an enraptured audience ; while the bard, confined within the established mode of rule, time and place, drags his drowsy auditors through the jog-trot road laid out within the restraining shackles of the drama.

In like manner the powders of Dr. James snatch a patient from the tedious train of physic, nurses, fops and confinement, the natural concomitants of the slow prescriptions of the *materia medica*.

A mem-

A member of the medical faculty, talking on this subject very lately, declared, that was he president of the college of physicians, he would propose the moving for a law, to make it felony for any one to presume to prescribe, in any case whatsoever, without a licence first had from that learned assembly, for that purpose.

An amendment was proposed, which it is imagined, will be carried at the next meeting of that august body, that a subscription be immediately entered into, to get an act of parliament entitled,

An act to encourage MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE, and to extend the powers of the COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;

Wherein it is to be particularly specified, that whoever presumes, after the first day of January, 1777, to give the least relief, by way of medicine, to any one that has been given over by any member
of

of that body, shall be condemned to work upon the Thames for three years; and upon conviction of any person or persons, having by a medicine or medicines, restored to health such person or persons so declared incurable, that the said quack or quacks shall immediately suffer death, for having dared to convince the public that they have more skill in the art of restoring health than the bench of regular bred gentlemen, to whose care the lives of all his majesty's liege subjects are legally entrusted, to be dealt with as they or any of them shall think fit; be it to bleed, puke, sweat, physic, blister, glister, scarify or kill at pleasure.

SECTION V.

CONCLUSION.

‘ **T**HE *extraêt* of a letter from Dr. Mayersbach’s apothecary to Dr. ‘ Lettsom’ reserved, as it were, for the grand *coup de main*, in this literary contest, will prove an unsuccessful manœuvre, and the imprudence of the attack must occasion its own defeat.

The absurdity of an existence of the allegations it contains must appear glaring to the meanest capacity.

The latter part of Dr. Mayersbach’s concise answer to that extraordinary composition which appeared in the Public Ledger of September 30th last, attested with his name, is the best confutation of so malicious a libel. To save our readers the trouble of referring to the paper we have inserted it here.

“ I beg

“ I beg leave to lay before the public
 “ an account of Hauffmann, the Doctor’s
 “ correspondent. He was never, either di-
 “ rectly or indirectly, apothecary to me;
 “ he was servant to Mr. Koch, and dis-
 “ charged by him, taken before one of his
 “ majesty’s justices of the peace for the
 “ county of Middlesex, and committed to
 “ Clerkenwell Bridewell; the reason why
 “ is best known to himself.

“ MAYERSBACH.”

Such is the true character of Dr. Lettsom’s prime agent, his partner in invention, the promoter of calumny.

Oh, Envy! where is thy stop, if the *grave*, the *moral*, the *admired* Dr. Lettsom, grows pale beneath thy influence, and can descend to the meanest mode of feeding thy insatiable gratification? But, alas! who that has a being liable to the frailties of nature, can behold, and keep himself within the bounds of reason, a fellow-mor-

tal accumulating a princely fortune by dint of application, and of meritorious knowledge in a profession, which classical study, a thorough understanding of the *materia medica*, and a diploma in all its forms from *Warwick-Lane*, could not enable his own endeavours to acquire.

Whether Dr. Mayersbach does or does not intend to retire into his own country to enjoy this *princely fortune*, the report of his antagonist has allowed him, we neither know nor have endeavoured to find out. It is very natural for a person to seek an asylum among his relations and friends, to enjoy what his industry has realized. And that Dr. Lettsom would be desirous of supplying his place, at least in the *profits* of his calling, if his abilities would furnish him with the means, is as *natural* and as *reasonable a conclusion*.